



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



Iowa Crop Progress & Condition

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Cooperating with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

For the week ending May 16, 2021
Issued May 17, 2021

Media Contact: Greg Thessen

Most of Iowa received some precipitation during the week ending May 16, 2021 according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service. Statewide there were 4.8 **days suitable for fieldwork** during the week. Much of Iowa continues to need additional precipitation. Normal temperatures would also aid crop development. Field activities included planting, spraying, and applying anhydrous and dry fertilizer. Cleaning of terraces and fence rows was also reported.

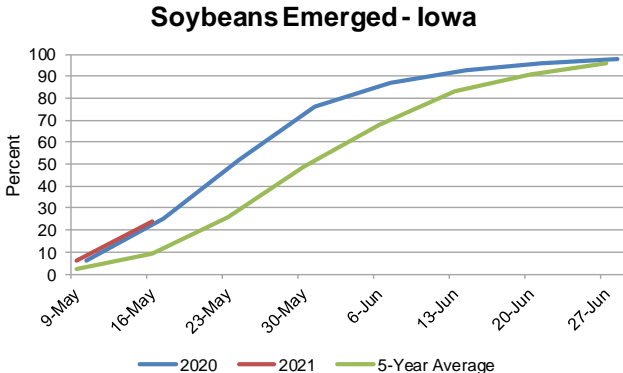
Topsoil moisture levels rated 7% very short, 27% short, 61% adequate and 5% surplus. **Subsoil moisture** levels rated 12% very short, 36% short, 48% adequate and 4% surplus. Nearly one-quarter of west central Iowa’s subsoil moisture level continues to be rated very short.

Planting of Iowa’s expected **corn** crop is winding down at 94% complete, almost 2 weeks ahead of the 5-year average. Only farmers in west central Iowa have over 10% of their corn crop left to plant. During the week ending May 16 corn emergence jumped 30 percentage points to 52%, 4 days ahead of normal. Eighty-three percent of the **soybean** crop has been planted, 18 days ahead of the five-year average. Farmers in southeast Iowa have approximately one-third of their soybean crop left to plant. Twenty-four percent of the expected soybean crop has emerged, 1 week ahead of normal. Eighty-eight percent of the **oat** crop has emerged with some reports of oats headed. Iowa’s oat condition rated 61% good to excellent.

Iowa’s **hay condition** rating was 54% good to excellent. Some farmers have started their first cutting of alfalfa. **Pasture condition** rated 42% good to excellent. No problems with livestock were reported.

Crop Condition as of May 16, 2021

Item	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Hay, all	7	7	32	46	8
Oats	1	9	29	51	10
Pasture and range	7	19	32	38	4



Crop Progress as of May 16, 2021

Item	Districts									State			
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This week	Last week	Last year	5-yr average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Corn planted.....	96	97	91	88	95	93	96	95	95	94	86	95	81
Corn emerged	50	66	38	45	61	51	54	40	51	52	22	58	40
Oats emerged	91	90	85	84	93	85	94	89	90	88	74	89	82
Soybeans planted.....	92	94	86	75	90	76	81	75	67	83	67	84	48
Soybeans emerged	24	31	16	22	38	18	16	17	26	24	6	22	9

Days Suitable for Fieldwork and Soil Moisture Condition as of May 16, 2021

Item	Districts									State		
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This week	Last week	Last year
	(days)	(days)	(days)	(days)	(days)	(days)	(days)	(days)	(days)	(days)	(days)	(days)
Days suitable.....	6.2	5.8	5.4	4.0	5.1	4.4	4.6	3.0	2.2	4.8	5.1	4.3
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Topsoil moisture												
Very short	13	7	5	7	6	1	1	17	6	7	10	2
Short	33	43	35	30	24	15	21	20	6	27	27	7
Adequate	54	50	59	62	67	71	77	59	54	61	61	78
Surplus	0	0	1	1	3	13	1	4	34	5	2	13
Subsoil moisture												
Very short	19	11	3	24	13	4	6	19	2	12	13	1
Short	47	46	38	45	33	24	31	31	9	36	39	6
Adequate	34	43	58	31	52	60	62	50	65	48	46	83
Surplus	0	0	1	0	2	12	1	0	24	4	2	10

IOWA PRELIMINARY WEATHER SUMMARY

Provided by Justin Glisan, Ph.D., State Climatologist
Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

Reports from the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship and maps from the Midwestern Regional Climate Center reflect data collected from 7:00 A.M. Central Time on May 10, 2021, through 7:00 A.M. Central Time on May 16, 2021.

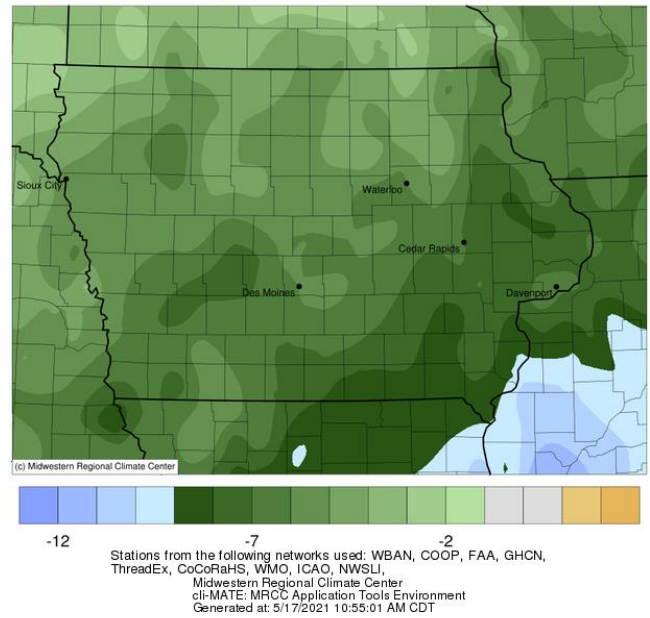
Unseasonably cool temperatures persisted across Iowa during the reporting period with negative departures of up to eight degrees observed in the state’s southeast corner; the statewide average temperature was 52.7 degrees, 7.4 degrees below normal. Late spring showers and thunderstorms also developed over much of Iowa, with the highest rain totals occurring in the southeast, though for this time of year, drier than normal conditions were reported at all Iowa observing stations.

As the potent low pressure system pushed east of Iowa, partly cloudy skies prevailed through Sunday (9th) with afternoon highs in the upper 50s and low 60s under light, variable winds. Overnight temperatures dipped into the 40s as a weak disturbance moved through eastern Iowa, shifting winds to a northeasterly direction on that side of the state. Rain showers developed over eastern Iowa early on Monday (10th) with very light totals where rain fell. As the patten cleared and a dome of high pressure took hold over the Midwest, skies cleared with light northerly winds overnight into Tuesday (11th) morning. Lack of cloud cover and a colder air mass allowed temperatures to fall below freezing in portions of northern Iowa, while mid 40s were observed across southern Iowa; the statewide average low was 36 degrees, 11 degrees below normal. Mostly sunny skies remained across Iowa through the day with highs in the upper 50s and lower 60s, cooler than what is expected for mid-May. As the stars became visible, calm conditions allowed temperatures to drop back into the upper 30s and low 40s with light variable winds. At sunrise on Wednesday (12th), conditions remained calm and clear with a light southerly wind. Afternoon highs warmed into the mid 60s statewide, leading to a pleasant day for Iowans.

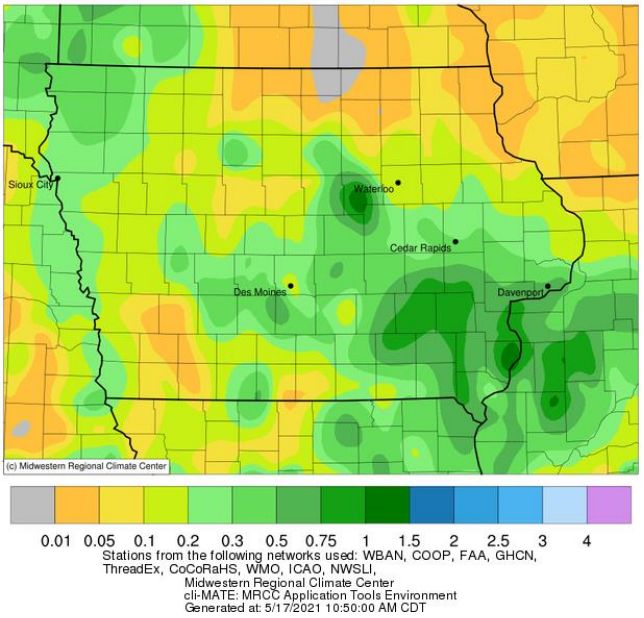
Light southerly winds built in overnight into Thursday (13th) with temperatures staying in the upper 30s and low 40s. Sunny skies allowed temperatures to climb into the mid to upper 60s. Clouds increased through early morning Friday (14th) in advance a low pressure center over the Dakotas, producing showers in western Iowa during late morning. The area of rainfall pushed into central Iowa and persisted across eastern Iowa into the evening. Scattered showers reformed over Iowa’s eastern half into Saturday (15th) with totals reported at 7:00 am highest from central Iowa into the southeast corner; a rain gauge in Prole (Warren County) measured 1.16 inches. General amounts where showers persisted ranged from 0.25 inch to 0.75 inch; the statewide average was 0.21 inch. A secondary disturbance moving through northern Iowa along with warm daytime highs forced showers and thunderstorms to fire during the afternoon and evening hours. Some storms were strong with heavy downpours; a severe thunderstorm produced large hail, with a diameter of 1.75 inches, in Fayette (Fayette County). The line of thunderstorms dissipated into the evening hours with foggy conditions observed overnight, given higher dew points and low temperatures in the 50s. Rain totals reported on Sunday (16th) morning were mostly a few tenths of an inch, though several stations reported over 0.50 inch; Keokuk Lock and Dam (Lee County) measured 1.01 inches while Grundy Center (Grundy County) observed 1.40 inches.

Weekly precipitation totals ranged from no rainfall at a handful of northern Iowa stations to 1.49 inches in Grundy Center. The statewide weekly average precipitation was 0.37 inch while the normal is 0.79 inch. Sioux City Airport (Woodbury County) observed the week’s high temperature of 79 degrees on the 15th, seven degrees above normal. Estherville Municipal Airport (Clayton County) reported the week’s low temperature of 26 degrees on the 11th, 18 degrees below normal. Four-inch soil temperatures were in the upper 50s southeast to near 60 northwest as of Sunday.

Average Temperature (°F): Departure from 1991-2020 Normals
May 10, 2021 to May 16, 2021



Accumulated Precipitation (in)
May 10, 2021 to May 16, 2021



Temperature and Precipitation Maps, courtesy of the Midwestern Regional Climate Center, are available at: <http://mrcc.isws.illinois.edu/CLIMATE/>
Growing Degree Days can be found at <https://mrcc.illinois.edu/U2U/gdd/>